

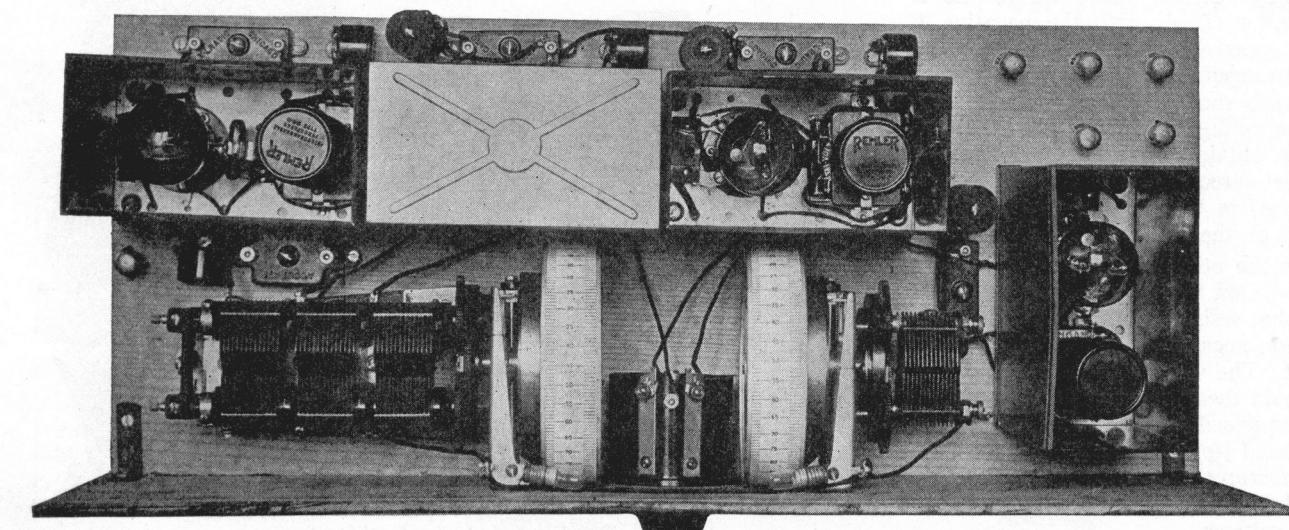
Volume 8, Edition 2

# Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS



February 2004

**VALENTINE'S DAY AT VOMARC!**  
**DON'T GET LOST! WE'RE AT THE SONOMA FIRE STATION AGAIN THIS MONTH!**



*Top View of R.F. and Detector Section.*

RADIO FOR APRIL, 1928

## **FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL**

There's a lot going on in VOMARC. The 14th is our first VE session of the year, so if any of you know someone else who needs an upgrade exam, this is the time. The place is

McDougle Hall at 9:00am. We will be starting our ham class on the 24th. We need students, not only tech, but any grade. I think that it's important that everyone try to get the highest license category they can.

Advertising is very important. See me if you can help put out some flyers. Talk it up with your friends to see if you can get them interested.

Our meeting is on the 18th and will be at the Fire House again this month. The speaker will be Richard Shapee, W5HQJ . His presentation is on a radio that he built that is a replica of one used in the 1920's. I have heard his talk at the last SIRARC meeting and its really well done. Even the XYL enjoyed it.

Some good news, the antenna trailer is licensed. I would like to take it out for a trial run sometime before field day and check out the beam antenna. Let me know if you would like to join me. I am thinking of a weekend somewhere on the coast.

Some bad news. It looks like a battery on AO-40 may have shorted pulling down the main bus to a level that's put the bird out of commission. The hope is that the bad cell may eventually "open up" and then the auxilliary ones can take over.

More good news. Joan's, W6WXU, grand daughter, Mattie Clauson, AD7BL, may be the youngest ever to hold an extra ticket at seven years old. Our congratulations to her and her proud grandmother.

To all you displaced easterners, here is a snippet from the last

ARRL letter. "Taking advantage of record cold temperatures, the ingenious hams used gallon jugs filled with water and frozen to the pavement to provide antenna support guy wire anchors."

Aren't we lucky here in Sonoma to be able to drive a ground rod in non-frozen earth.

73, Jim

### **7 Year Old Passes Extra Class Exam**

She has done it again- Mattie Clauson of Roseburg, Oregon (IFC membership #897) Attempted her Extra class exam in Eugene, Oregon...

Dressed in her NASA flight suit, she appeared somewhat nervous but quickly relaxed while the paperwork was being filled out. When the exam was started, there were 9 VE's and five examinees total present. (All five passed their exams! Congratulations to all five!) Mattie got right to work answering the questions and working the math problems on her calculator. As she finished her exam, one of the VE's quietly walked over to her with a smile and collected her exam for scoring. Mattie waited with slight trepidation for the examining VE's to inform her of her pass or fail. In the end.... Mattie Clauson, KD7TYN, passed her extra class exam the evening of January 14th, 2004(with a score of 92%)! She was quite excited about

passing. She states that now she can talk on all of the frequencies allowed for extra class operators.

I am sure that we will hear more about Mattie in the near future. Congratulations Mattie!"



## **VOMARC Minutes, January 21, 2004**

Meeting was called to order at 7:45PM. There were 20 present.

First order of business was to introduce a guest, Ken, W6PWV.

The program by Stan Salek, NJ6E, who works for Hamit Edison Co, in Sonoma, was on "Software Defined Radios". In the program, he covered the differences between computer controlled and software defined radios, the basics of software defined radios and some of the advanced applications. He had radio component samples for show & tell.

Pat McTaggart had knee surgery so everyone present signed a get well card for her.

Pictures of the newest amateur extra, taken at the VE session right after she passed the test were shown. Mattie Clauson is now AD7BL. Congratulations. Hopefully, she will be an encouragement for other young ones to enter the hobby of ham radio.

Treasurer's report: \$67.15 in petty cash, \$1506.05 in the bank.

Reminder: Dues are payable NOW.

There was further discussion of the BPL controversy. FEMA and the Red Cross are on record with the FCC against BPL.

ACS Report: Mike Miller, WB6TMH, and Jan Bush, AE6FQ, have been appointed as assistant unit leaders. The assistant unit leaders function to start the call out tree and be the auxiliary leader in the event, Ken, N6KM, is not available. There was discussion of the impact on ACS in the event the Sheriff's Dept. takes over the police department. The consensus is there should be no impact on our function in assisting the city with the volunteer activities we now do. The message handling class was cancelled. It will be rescheduled and will be held in Santa Rosa. Time and date will be given later. There will be an update of contact information distributed

shortly. The VIP program is on hold until further notice due to state budget cuts. There presently is the net only on Monday nights at 8PM on the St Helena repeater.

#### Old Business:

Solar panels need more inductors, and we need to get the panels out of Steve, K2IYQ's garage. Darrell will get more panels to replace the defective ones.

#### New Business:

Net control: Eileen, KG6QNT, is net control this month.

Jim, K6UUW, February

Jan, K9OOU, March

Dick, KF6FZM, April

Mike, WB6TMH, May

Steve, KD6KVK, June

Needed - July & August

Dick, KF6FZM, September

Darrel, WD6BOR, October

Dan, KG6LJN, November

Steve, K2IYQ, December

There will be another Ham Class given next month. It will start February 24, 2004, and will be held in the Sonoma Fire Station. Instructors will be Darrell, WD6BOR, Ken, N6KM, Mike, WB6TMH, to start others may volunteer. Advertising was discussed. There will be two articles submitted to the Index Tribune. There will be the possibility of having it submitted to the club news column in the IT. We will ask VOM.com if it can be put on the website. There will be announcements made to other clubs. Our SF

section manager should be notified. It is suggested that short to the point articles be given to the schools in the valley. Darrell will order the books needed for the class. The class will be based on the new novice class from ARRL. There may be an upgrade class if there are enough people who wish to upgrade. The suggestion is that the upgrade class be held in another room than the novice class.

Discussion of the Ham Fest ensued. The Ham Fest will be April 24, 2004, from 7am to 12 noon. We have the letter from the city for the free day. The secretary will contact the insurance company for the policy endorsement and will contact Jesse at the Parks Department for the application. Unfortunately, the DX association is holding its event on the same day again, so we will need to be diligent in our advertising to make our event well attended.

Next discussion was where to hold Field Day this year. Field Day is the last full week end in June. Suggestions for a location were: The Sonoma Police Department, Maxwell Park, the Old Sonoma Fire Station, Infineon Raceway, the parking lot in the Market Place, Depot Park, or some other location open for suggestion. The secretary will contact the Parks Dept to see what needs to be done to be able to hold Field Day at Maxwell Park. Eileen will contact the city to see what

needs to be done to use the Depot Park and if there would be overnight parking allowed.

Question was raised as to the location of the club's generators. One is at Kermit , W6JFN's, house and one is at the old fire house.

The door prize was given and the meeting was adjourned at 9:40PM. The meeting for February will be held at McDougal Hall in Eldridge (Sonoma Developmental Center).

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Brady, W6WXU, Secretary

### **LOCAL RED CROSS ASKING FOR HELP**

(Eileen, KG6QNT, forwarded this email for the newsletter. Let her know if you can help. Ed.)

I spoke with you at the last DAT meeting regarding our Emergency Communication System. I'm hoping to get a team of people together who are radio experts for the Chapter to run the system during a disaster. Perhaps you know of a person who is qualified to help with the equipment set up - someone who knows about professional radio equipment, and the Red Cross frequency. We are looking for a Communications Officer to take over the project, hook things up, and get a team together. Please forward this to those who may be interested, or

let me know if you can help get us up and running. There is a job description on Corpweb (you need to have corpweb access code) that outlines the responsibilities:  
<https://corpweb.redcross.org/cmm/3000/3058/3058e.htm>

At some chapters, they exchange a meeting place for the local Ham radio people in exchange for them coordinating the radio equipment and training for the DAT team.

I have obtained equipment for the Chapter, and am coordinating getting an antennae and coaxial cable hooked up to our base station. To date, we are approaching readiness for an active base station to be up and running with mobile and 2 way radios for a disaster. The hand held radios and the ERV radio are ready to use and will currently function within about a 2 mile radius. We are in the process of coordinating getting the antennae mounted outside and hooked up to our base station. I think I can get PG&E to help with this, which should save us about \$250.

**Radio Equipment** obtained: we re-crystallized 5 Motorola hand-held radios to the Red Cross frequency (47.42 MHz) and have 5 new rechargeable battery packs. We now have a mobile radio for the van which needs to be installed (any volunteers?), 2 radio antennas - one for the base station and another for a remote base which

we hope to set up in the future. In all, we have spent \$160 and obtained about \$1500 worth of equipment, donated from my friend Edison Fong who coordinates the emergency communications in Palo Alto. Once we are up and running with our base station, and everyone is trained, he has additional equipment for us, and I may be able to obtain other equipment from Marin County. We will all need to be trained in proper radio care, language, and use, so we will need someone qualified for that as well.

My goal is to eventually get a remote base station set up so we can transmit from more than a 10-12 mile radius. In the meantime - we need help from someone who knows about what connectors we need and other issues. I appreciate any input you may have.

Thanks,  
Randi Francis  
Disaster Preparedness  
Coordinator  
H: 823-7550/W: 571-3153  
email: randi@pon.net

Also from Eileen:

### **SILLY QUESTION TIME**

The title came about because people in computer classes always start by saying, "This is probably a silly question..." I started holding Silly Question Time for the 10 minutes before class started. During SQT anything goes. And if a question

pertains to the class, it gets promoted to a Good Question and saved for later. That way people got their questions answered and it served as a warm-up act for class.

That just about fills 'er up for this month. Thanks to all who sent items for the newsletter, and, please, if you have something to share, send it along. You too can be a famous writer! 73, Ed.

## **THE VOMARC WIRELESS**

### **VOLUME 8 EDITION 2**

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club - W6AJF

Frank C. Jones - W6AJF  
Honorary President in Perpetuity

### **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

Jim Hill, K6UUW - President  
George Maurer, K6ITE - Vice-Pres  
Joan Brady, W6WXU - Secretary  
Ken McTaggart, N6KM - Treasurer  
Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, Membership Chair  
Mike Miller, WB6TMH - Radio Officer  
Ken McTaggart, N6KM - ACS  
Jan Bush, AE6FQ - Webmeister  
Darrel Jones, WD6BOR - Editor

***Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.***

**CLUB MEETINGS** are held on the third Wednesday of each month, alternating between McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge, and the Sonoma Fire Station, 630 2<sup>nd</sup> Street West, Sonoma. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

**WEB PAGE:**  
<http://www.vomarc.org/>

**Nets** are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

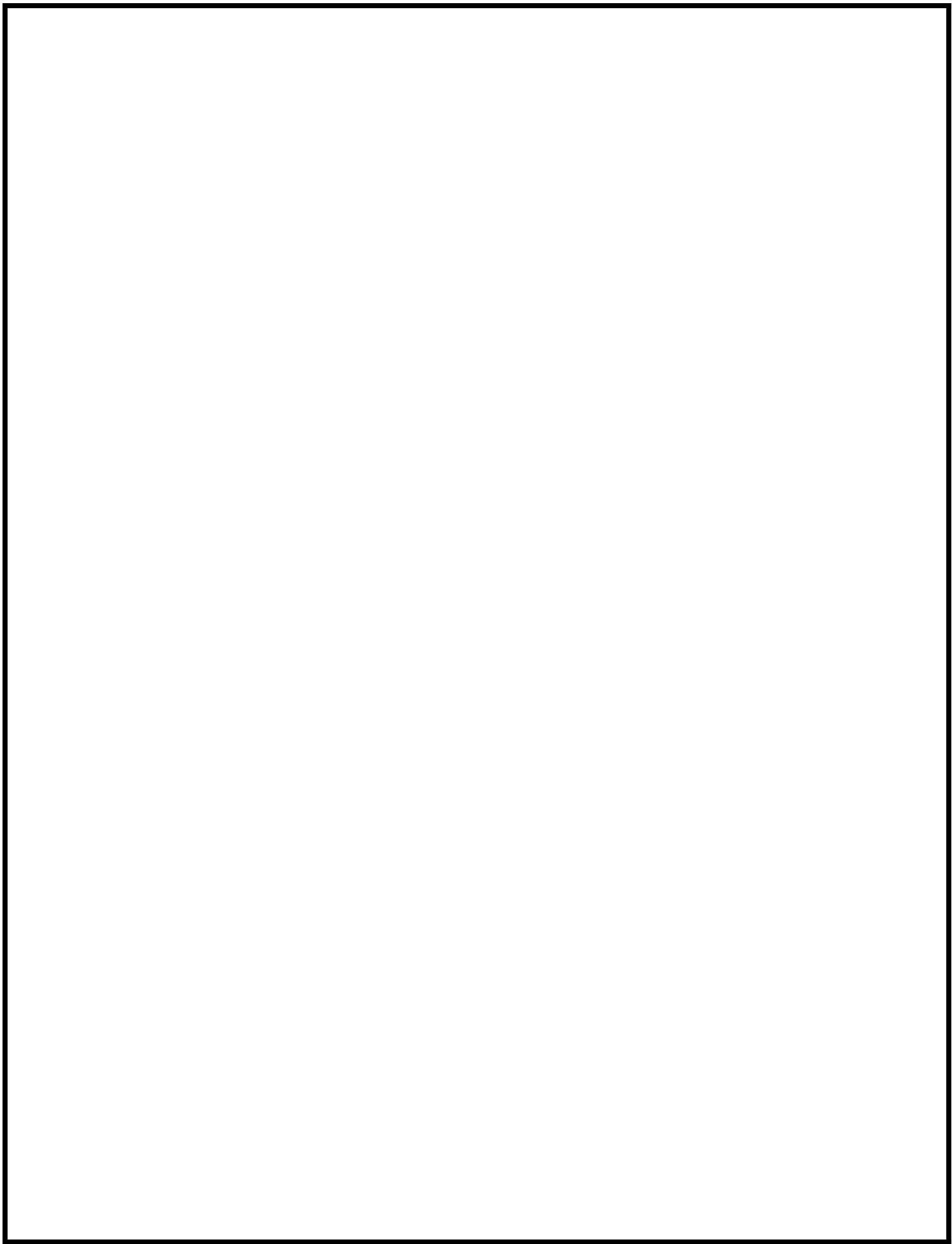
**ACS** holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

**PACKET STATION INFO:** The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as "SNV1EC". "SNVGW" can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is "SNVND".

**CLUB BREAKFASTS** are held on the first Saturday of each month at Issa's Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:  
WD6BOR@VOM.COM

**Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.**  
175 First Street West  
Sonoma, CA 95476



**Valley of the Moon  
ARC  
1496 Nut Tree Lane  
Sonoma, CA 95476**

**NOTICE!!! THE FEBRUARY VOMARC MEETING IS  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE  
SONOMA FIRE STATION, 630 SECOND STREET WEST.  
CU THERE!**

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**VOMARC MEMBERSHIP**

**VOMARC 2004**      Membership Dues:      \$10/year individual;    \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

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VOMARC: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### **Membership Moment, From the Database Queen**

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. It tells you when your VOMARC dues are due. Dues may be mailed to Ken N6KM, or Jim K6UUW, 1496 Nut Tree Lane, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the January meeting. If there is any mistake, please do not shoot the messenger, email Eileen KG6QNT at [Eileen@vom.com](mailto:Eileen@vom.com). Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**